

REMARKS

The present Response is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed August 21, 2007. Applicants herein attach, as an exhibit and in support of its remarks, the signed 1.132 declaration of inventor Bernhard Knipp.

In the Final Office Action under response, claims 1 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §§103 over the Harre et al. reference of record. The Examiner contends that the use of any chlorination agent and solvent would have been obvious in Applicants' claimed process, compared to the thionyl chloride/organic solvent of Haare, absent any unexpected results. The Examiner notes Applicants prior submission of test data, but has required same to be submitted via a signed 1.132 declaration. Applicants now respectfully traverse and overcome the 103(a) rejection.

Applicants herein attach, as an exhibit and in support of its remarks, the signed 1.132 declaration of inventor Bernhard Knipp. As noted in the signed declaration (specifically paragraphs 6-9 therein), Applicants have discovered that by using HCl as the chlorinating agent and dioxane as the organic solvent, the recycled resin has an unexpectedly high active chlorine content. This use of HCl and dioxane and its advantages are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference. In support of this statement, Applicants have run three tests to determine active chlorine content in the example of Haare (dichloromethane and thionyl chloride), a second test utilizing dioxane and thionyl chloride and finally a third test utilizing dioxane and HCl. (See paragraphs 7-8 of the signed 1.132 declaration of inventor Bernhard Knipp). The summary data for each test are depicted below:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Resin (g)</u>	<u>Solvent</u>	<u>Chlorinating Agent (mmol Cl)</u>	<u>Active Chlorine Content</u>
Haare	10 g	100 ml CH ₂ Cl ₂	1.7 ml SOCl ₂ (47 mmol Cl)	1.4 mol/kg
Test 2	10 g	100 ml Dioxane	25 ml SOCl ₂ (700 mmol Cl)	0.8 mol/kg
Test 3	10g	100 ml Dioxane	25 g HCl (gas) (700 mmol Cl)	1.8 mol/kg

As opined by inventor Bernhard Knipp (paragraph 9 of the signed 1.132 declaration), the data demonstrate the unexpectedly high active chlorine content of Applicant's invention by the combination of HCl as the chlorinating agent and dioxane as the organic solvent

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the claims as presented are patentably distinct over the asserted art of record and thus that the 103(a) rejection is obviated and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of claims 1 and 5-9 as amended.

No further fee is required in connection the filing of this Amendment. If any additional fees are deemed necessary, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

Respectfully submitted,


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